

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 15538 241924Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /082 W

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R 241710Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3830

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15538

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, LEE

SUBJ: SITUATION IN LEBANON: FEARS FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

1. VATICAN OFFICIAL OF THE COMMISSION FOR RELATIONS WITH JUDAISM AND DR. JOSEPH LICHTEN, REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME OF JEWISH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH, PASSED ON TO US INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT SMALL JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT (ABOUT 2500) FACES GRAVE DANGER OF MASSACRE BY MOSLEM ZEALOTS SHOULD SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANAON CONTINUE TO DEGENERATE. THEY CLAIMED THAT, ALTHOUGH DANGER IS PERCEIVED BY OUTSIDERS, COMMUNITY ITSELF DOES NOT FEEL ENDANGERED AND HAS MADE NO CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR DEPARTURE FROM BEIRUT.

2. WHEN QUESTIONED FURTHER REGARDING THE SOURCE OF THEIR INFORMATION, DR. LICHTEN SAID THE SUBJECT WAS BROUGHT UP AT THE RECENT AD HOC MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EUROPEAN, AMERICAN AND ISRAELI JEWS WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS IN GENEVA. DR. LICHTEN ALSO STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS ESSENTIALLY ON THEOLOGICAL AND DOCTRINAL SUBJECTS, HE WOULD BE
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PAGE 02 ROME 15538 241924Z

INCLUDING THIS "POLITICAL" INFORMATION IN HIS REPORT TO B'NAI

B'RITH HEADQUARTERS WHICH HE IS DESPATCHING URGENTLY THIS WEEK.

3. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION, DR. LICHTEN INFORMED US THAT THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE AND THAT IT WAS THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO HAD SUGGESTED THAT THIS MATTER BE ALSO RAISED WITH US.

4. COMMENT: IN CHECKING THE FOREGOING WITH VATICAN'S DESK OFFICER FOR LEBANON, WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME SUCH REPORT HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION AND THAT VATICAN WAS UNAWARE THAT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BEIRUT WAS SPECIAL TARGET OF MOSLEMS. VOLPE

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